**Improving Student Learning at Scale (ISLS) Team Meeting #5**

**October 22, 2014**

**1:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Participants:**

Ben Rarick (SBE), Bill Moore (SBCTC), Rep. Chris Reykdal, Chris Barron (P4L), David Brenna (PESB), Gil Mendoza (OSPI), Jane Sherman (COP), Jessica Vavrus (OSPI), Justin Montermini (WTECB), Karen Waters (Strategies 360), Kate Nielson (NGA), Kevin Chase (Grandview SD), Linda Drake (SBE), Marcie Maxwell (GO), Mike Hubert (OSPI), Noreen Light (WSAC), Randy Spaulding (WSAC), Scott Seaman (AWSP), Tivoli Farler (WSAC), Vi Boyer (ICW); by phone, Rai Nauman Mumtaz (WSAC), Craig, Emily, Brian (Strategy 360)

**Resources:**

* Smarter Balanced [Digital Library](https://www.k12.wa.us/SMARTER/DigitalLibrary.aspx) (OSPI)
* [Strategic Action Plan](http://wsac.wa.gov/strategic-action-plan), including dual credit policy recommendations (WSAC)
* [Year-by-Year Guide to Graduation Requirements and Career- and College-Ready Diploma Video](http://www.sbe.wa.gov/graduation.php) (SBE)
* CCSS/SB [one-page messaging](http://improvingstudentlearningatscale.wikispaces.com/Communications) for secondary counselors and postsecondary audiences

**Welcome and introductions**

**Updates on SB agreements and transition courses**

Both the community and technical colleges and the public baccalaureates have signed agreements on the use of the Smarter Balanced assessments as evidence of college readiness. ([Joint press release](http://www.sbctc.edu/documents/Smarter-balanced-final-approved-10.6.2014.pdf).) [Transition courses](https://c2cwa.wordpress.com/) are being developed (English Language Arts) and piloted (Math) for students who score below college-ready (1 or 2) on the SB assessment.

* Transition courses will:
* Be ready statewide for the 2015-16 term.
* Math is being piloted in 12 sites.
* ELA will be piloted in January of 2015.
* Have new course codes in CEDARS so progress can be tracked
* WA is getting national attention/interest for the SB agreement. No process in place, at this time for accepting SB scores from other states.
* There is a need to be very clear about what students get for their SB score. The agreement provides for placement into college-credit courses; students will need to take placement exams for higher level course placement, such as calculus track.
* OSPI will offer the 11th grade (high school) SB assessment to 10th graders this year, to satisfy a statutory accountability requirement for ELA only. A press release and OSPI bulletin will be sent out this week. We don’t want this to downplay the importance of the testing that takes place in 11th grade.

**Question:** Will a passing 10th grade test score qualify the student for Running Start?

The current agreement does not address this. Further discussion needed in this area.

**ISLS cross-state meeting**

**Question:** Will completion of the transition courses meet statutory graduation requirements?

* + Not under current law. It could satisfy graduation requirements as an alternate means of assessment, but that will require change to statutory language.

**Question:** Some states have rebranded their learning standards to avoid negative association with the term “Common Core.” Is there a need to rebrand Common Core in Washington?

* + It should still be called “common core” under the fold of our “state learning standards”.
  + Rebranding in some other states has caused confusion. People thought there was yet another set of standards.
  + “Common Core” resonates better with the higher education institutions.
  + “Common Core” polled roughly 70% positive with parents in WA
  + When talking about state learning standards, use the term “inclusive of” Common Core Math and English, Next Gen Science Standards and so forth, to help others understand that the common core is embedded in the state learning standards.

**Action item:** Encourage higher education leaders signed on to support the [Higher Ed for Higher Standards](http://higheredforhigherstandards.org/).

**Washington Student Achievement Council** [**Strategic Action Plan**](http://wsac.wa.gov/strategic-action-plan)

* Specific action items for 2015-17, to support achievement of the two statewide attainment goals:
  + All adults in Washington, ages 25-44, will have a high school diploma or equivalent.
  + At least 70 percent of Washington adults, ages 25-44, will have a postsecondary credential.
* The Strategic Action Plan includes recommended dual credit policy changes.

**Question:** What is happening with the varying costs to districts for Running Start courses offered in the high school?

* + Two bulletins ([028-14](http://www.k12.wa.us/bulletinsmemos/Bulletins2014/B028-14.pdf) and [044-14](http://www.k12.wa.us/bulletinsmemos/Bulletins2014/B044-14.pdf)) have been sent out by OPSI to clarify this funding confusion.
  + There are two clearly separate funding models for Running Start (at the college) and College in the High School (at the HS). When districts negotiate contracts for the alternate model of Running Start in the high school, there are different fees paid from district to district.

**Question:** Do we have data for who/how many districts in WA are offering CHS?

* Yes, we have the data.

**Action item:** Develop a graphic depicting geographic distribution of dual credit programs across the state, variety of programs offered, and demographics of participants.

**AP/IB/Cambridge scores for college credit**

* Dual Credit Look-up Tool will be on the [ReadySetGrad](http://readysetgrad.org/) website
* It is currently in test mode and was demonstrated for meeting participants.

Smarter Balanced Digital Library (Jessica Vavrus)

* The Digital Library currently has two tools that use data from across the nation
  + Tools for implementing education standards
  + “Instruction Materials Taskforce” – Database of effective instructional materials from some of the biggest districts in the nation.
* The Digital Library is live for all K-12 educators and school employees to access.
  + Big push for sign up of all interested employees
  + Higher Ed access- Currently not available in WA; potential costs/pricing are still under discussion.
* Materials posted are held to rigorous standards – This is not Pinterest; not just anyone can post
* A RFP will be coming out soon to encourage the use of the Digital Library (Randy)

Discussion of a newly-forming nonprofit, [EdReports.org](http://edreports.org/), which “…will provide free, web-based reviews of instructional materials focusing on alignment to the Common Core…”

Discussion of the WSAC-administered [21st Century Educators](http://wsac.wa.gov/21-educators), Title II grants, which “…provides partnership grants for professional development projects serving K-12 educators.”

**Review and Discuss Infographic**

Karen Waters and the Strategies 360 team presented a draft infographic for feedback from the ISLS team. The infographic depicts how Smarter Balanced assessments can help students chart their paths to postsecondary success. The purpose of the infographic is to facilitate advising, encourage regular check-ins with advisors and updates to students’ high school and beyond plans, as well as to convey hope and to affirm that all students can pursue a pathway that leads to college and career readiness and postsecondary success.

Discussion of philosophy, policies and practices in advising students. Specific feedback was provided on verbiage to convey positive tone for all students, affirm that all students should take rigorous coursework, ensure that students planning to go directly into the workforce are represented along with those headed to other postsecondary options.

**Smarter Balanced Scores: College ready and graduation cut scores**

* [Year-by-Year Guide to Graduation Requirements and Career- and College-Ready Diploma Video](http://www.sbe.wa.gov/graduation.php) (SBE)

Presentation on achievement-level setting process for SB assessments.

Presentation on how Smarter Balanced scores will compare to previous scores. Initially, there will be a different (lower) cut score for graduation than the score which is recognized as college- and career-ready. This is important during the next few years of transition.

* A suggestion was made that we refer to scores as “HS score” vs. “11th Grade score”

**Question:** How do you get a student whose score is just below the score required for graduation to improve enough in time to graduate? Course content for transition classes? Timing of final testing?

* **Question:** Does there need to be something in a future graphic on score cut off about alternative ways of showing proficiency of the learning standards?
* Suggestion: Add another slide titled “In Five Years” showing a chart with a line from the third grade test score to the career and college ready test score

**Action item:** We need VERY clear messaging by February on graduation requirements for the incoming freshman class for principals to review and distribute at parent nights.

**Wrap up**

Next meeting will be held January 6th, 1:00pm – 4:pm, TBD site in the Olympia area.